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FROM: WALT ROSTOW
TO : THE PRESIDENT
CITE: CAP62163

~~SECRET~~ EYES ONLY

Received: Washington CommCen
7:01 PM EDT Monday 26, AUG 1968

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AUGUST 26, 1968

HEREWITH ADDITIONAL POINTS COVERED IN SECRETARY'S CON-
VERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, AUGUST 23, 1968

THE SECRETARY REFERRED TO THE STATEMENT AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HAD MADE TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON WHEN INFORMING HIM OF SOVIET ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE EFFECT THAT NOTHING WAS CONTEMPLATED WHICH WOULD EFFECT THE VITAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES. THE SECRETARY SAID WE HAD NOTED THIS STATEMENT VERY CAREFULLY AND ASSUMED THAT IT WAS MEANT TO BE TAKEN QUITE SERIOUSLY. AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS INDEED THE CASE.

AMBASSADOR THOMPSON ASKED DOBRYNIN HOW LONG HE THOUGHT THE JAMMING OF OUR BROADCASTS WOULD GO ON. DOBRYNIN SAID HE THOUGHT THE JAMMING QUITE PROBABLY WAS RELATED TO THE DEBATES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND MENTIONED THAT AMBASSADOR BALL HAD USED SOME VERY STRONG LANGUAGE.

IN DISCUSSING THE SOVIET ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN SAID THE SOVIET TROOPS HAD OBVIOUSLY HAD STRICT ORDERS NOT TO RESPOND TO PROVOCATIONS UNTIL ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. HE MENTIONED ONE INCIDENT IN WHICH SOME CZECHS HAD DELIBERATELY CRASHED AN AUTOMOBLE INTO A SOVIET TANK AND THEN TAKEN PICTURES OF IT.

DTG: 26/2304Z AUG 68

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